

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	Cont. of Application No. 09/469,527
	)	
Kristen L. WATKINS et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 2123
	)	
Application No.: Unassigned	)	Examiner: F. Ferris
	)	
Filed: February 17, 2004	)	
	)	
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR	)	
STAGGERING TIME POINTS FOR	)	
DEPLOYMENT OF RINGS IN A	)	
FIBER OPTIC NETWORK	)	
SIMULATION PLAN	)	

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
2011 South Clark Place  
Customer Window, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend this application  
as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.